APENDIX A. CLEAN COPY OF ABSTRACT

A method of large-scale, fault-tolerant, full service audio conferencing using a purely packet-switched network. An endpoint calls a conference gatekeeper indicating a conference. The gatekeeper either establishes the conference or invokes an interactive voice response server to gather required information. Either way, a conference allocation and control system selects a multiple control unit (MCU) to host the audio conference. The endpoint is given information to connect or transfer to the selected MCU. The MCU mixes input from all participant endpoints to form a voice stream for return to each endpoint. Audio conference participants can dial-out from the MCU to bring in additional participants. Dynamic routing permits an operator to service multiple MCUs and allows conference participants to be moved between MCUs. The method also supports streaming to passive conference participants.